
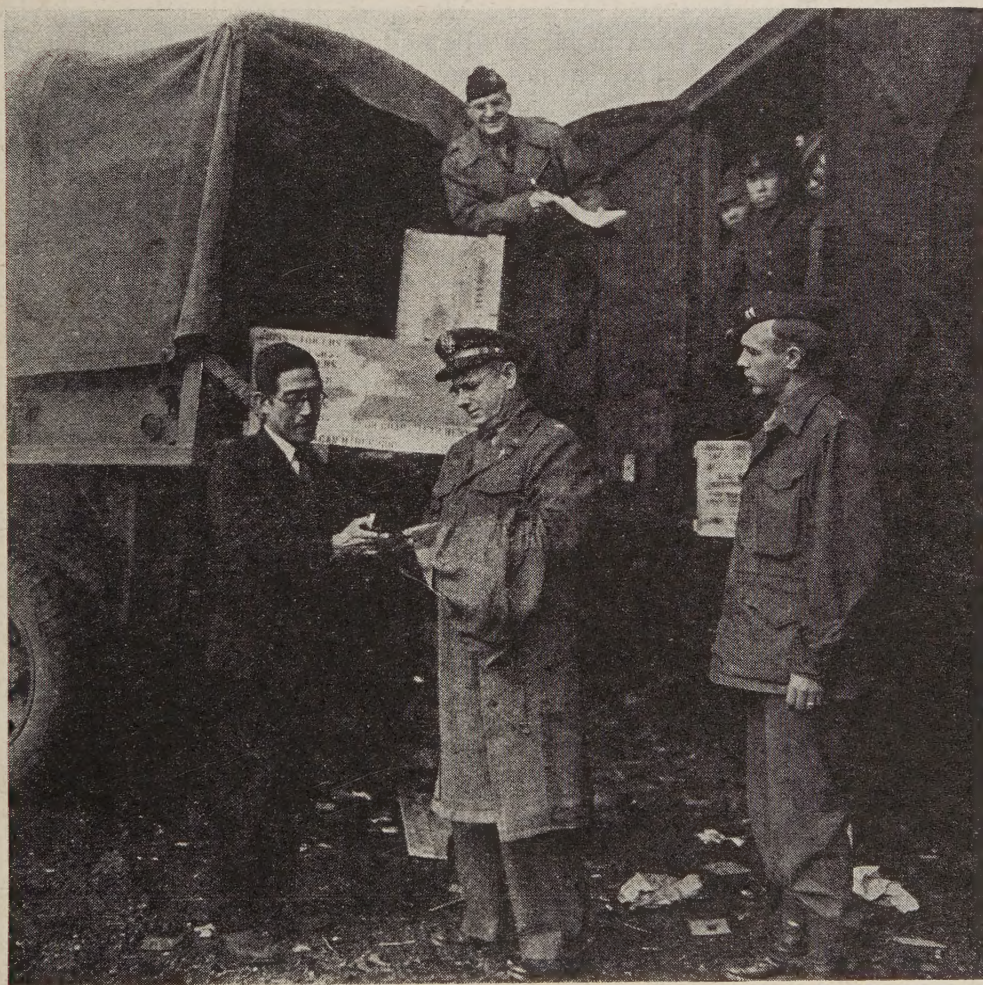


MAY 1946

 BIBLE  
SOCIETY

# Record



*Photo by Signal Corps U. S. Army*

## BIBLES, NOT BOMBS, FOR JAPAN

*Unloading Scriptures at Shichome Station, Tokyo. Left to right: Secretary Kiyoshi Hirai of the Japan Bible Society; Chaplain Ivan L. Bennett, Chaplain Primus Bennett, Chaplain F. B. Parker. The books will be distributed from the Tokyo Bible House*

(SEE PAGE 71)



# Everybody Turned Around— So Must We

FOR many years it has been customary to devote the pages of the May issue of the *Bible Society Record* to a condensation of the Annual Report of the Society's Board of Managers presented to the Society in that month. Much as the editors would like to follow the custom this year, it seems out of place to do so for two reasons, kindred to each other. First, the year 1945 was one in which the world turned its back as far as possible upon the horrors of a war to face at last the prospects of building a lasting peace; and second, the Society, now in the middle of 1946, is bristling with activities as it faces the opportuni-

ties of the pursuit of peace. So full of promise and hope are its present tasks that the editors cannot wait until July to lay their hopes and plans before the Christian people of America. Therefore this page and a few references elsewhere must suffice in this issue to reflect the Society's work for 1945. Meanwhile a small extra supply of the Board of Managers' Report has been provided, and will be sent as long as the copies last to anyone who sends 10¢ in stamps to cover postage and handling. Address your request to the *Bible Society Record*, asking for "The Board of Managers' Report for 1945."

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## During 1945 the Society—

- distributed 12,243,355 volumes of the Scriptures, the average for the preceding ten years being 8,251,197;
- reached a total of 458,060 Bibles, 4,472,522 Testaments and 2,560,284 Gospels and other Portions, supplied freely to chaplains and service men and women during the war period;
- shipped for German prisoners of war in the United States and abroad 35,512 Bibles, 475,696 Testaments and 983,426 Gospels;
- to meet the desperate need of civilians—pastors and people in liberated areas in Europe and Asia sent 18,040 Bibles, 305,775 Testaments and 1,359,117 Gospels;
- shipped 250,000 Gospels in four native Philippine languages for distribution before Christmas to liberated Filipinos;
- received and prepared to meet a challenging call for 100,000 Bibles and 2,500,000 Testaments for Japan and an even greater estimate of need in Europe;
- learned thankfully of the safety of the Society's staff in enemy-occupied countries and regretfully of the destruction of the Bible House in Manila;
- completed a cycle of four years in which paper had been put in process for the publishing of 50,478,648 copies of the Scriptures;
- promoted Worldwide Bible Reading as a successor to Nationwide Bible Reading, Thanksgiving to Christmas, distributing approximately 20,000,000 reading lists in 15 different countries as widely separated as China, Egypt and Colombia;
- received from individuals and churches both for the War Emergency Fund and for the regular budget the largest total of contributions in the Society's history;
- but faced opportunities so far in excess of any other offered before that gifts for 1946 should double those of 1945, and even then many who are crying out for the Word of God will not be supplied.*



# Bible Society Record

*A JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF THE  
HOLY SCRIPTURES*

VOLUME 91 MAY • 1946 NUMBER 5

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## The Bible Now

THE doors of the world are opening again. Out from the nations that last year sat in darkness have come counselors to plan for a peace that shall endure. Back and forth, again move the merchants of the world over their ancient and accustomed routes. Ships that yesterday zig-zagged in the darkness with armed men and the machinery of death, now with lights blazing make a straight course to stricken lands with the necessities of life.

Through these opening doors are also moving the emissaries of the churches. Christian missions must be revived. Nowhere was their lamp put out. In many areas they face brighter opportunities than ever—notably in Japan, China and Korea.

In Europe—where the church has always been—loss, destruction and poverty abound. But faith lives on, and glows with a hope that must be implemented.

The Christian people of America are eager to enter these doors. Special funds have been raised. Missionaries furloughed home during the war are impatient to return. Young people dedicated to adventurous service for Christ are tugging at the leashes of their preparation as they look forward to assignment. For through the opening doors are seen fields white to the harvest—schools to be reopened and new ones built; churches closed for want of shepherds to rally their scattered flocks; hospitals to be manned with the consecrated skill of doctors and nurses; literacy campaigns languishing for want of leaders to direct their zeal for expansion. What a prospect that looms through the opening doors before the missionary interest of Christian America!

In the face, however, of the awful destruction and poverty in the wake of the war, many things that cry out to be done cannot be done this year, or even next. In Europe the people need first the

elemental things—food, clothing, shelter and medicine. Permanent homes, adequate school facilities, church buildings must wait. In Japan, eager as the native Christian leaders are to seize upon their nation's present mood to lay deep and broad the foundations of the Gospel, the conviction is that, for the present, it is better that the missionaries not return in any great number. The churches are not prepared to receive them nor the country to support them.

There is one thing, however, that can be and must be done right now. Along with food for the bodies of starving men can be sent the Bread of Life for their souls. There need be no delay in sending the Bible through the opening doors of 1946. Everywhere the people are calling for it. Through Chaplain Ivan L. Bennett of the United States Pacific forces the channels have been opened for the delivery of 100,000 Japanese Bibles, 2,500,000 Japanese New Testaments and 100,000 English New Testaments. Pictures of the arrival of the first of these books are seen on page 71. And this unprecedented order is only a beginning. For vast China the Society has entered upon a program that in the next eighteen months should involve the production of over 10,000,000 volumes, more than the Society's average annual distribution for the last ten years throughout the whole world. The demand from Germany is similar. Until her Bible publishing establishments can be restored, there will be another 6,000,000 copies needed there, mostly Testaments and Bibles. The rest of Europe calls for another million volumes.

We long and we struggle for peace. The doors are opening. The need in all its appalling proportions appears. It must be met. There is no hope apart from Christ. Christ must be offered at once, and here is the place we can begin. There is nothing in the present situation apart from lack of funds to keep the flow of Scriptures moving



into hands that are eagerly stretched out for them.

Let money be given for world missions as never before! For eventually the sending of missionaries and the building and repairing of churches, schools and hospitals, the entering of new areas

and the expanding of old ones will require tens of millions of dollars. This year, however, and next, let added sums be given for the one type of service which can be and must be rendered at its maximum *now*—the sending of the Bread of Life to people who cry out for it.

## They Flew to Rio

*Nothing less than the shaping of the future of the Western Hemisphere was in the plans and prayers of the most significant group of Christian leaders possibly ever to meet in South America*

BY ERIC M. NORTH

THE WEEK of February 4th in Rio de Janeiro was important in Brazil. Then a new President was inaugurated and for the first time in nine years the Congress of Brazil met. The week was important to another group, however, and for another reason. Then for the first time the American and British Bible Societies held a more than continent-wide conference to face the problems and needs of the great group of countries we call Latin America.

Had it not been for airplane services the meeting could not have been held when it was. All the Secretaries in Latin America except the two resident in Rio "flew in" from Mexico City, Havana, Cristobal, Lima, Santiago and Buenos Aires.

Secretary John R. Temple of the British and Foreign Bible Society flew from London to New York, and then he and Secretary and Mrs. North flew thence to Rio. The Conference had as its capable hosts Dr. Charles W. Turner (American Bible Society) and Mr. C. H. Morris (British and Foreign Bible Society), co-Secretaries of the joint Agency in Brazil. It met in a room (on a twenty-first floor) with the great sweep of Rio bay in sight outside. But that was far less than the wide and far vision of the group within. Here were four men who had been in Bible Society work in Latin America more than twenty-five years each—Secretaries Penzotti, Gregory, Marroquín and Brackenridge—and five more who had served

It was midsummer in Rio when the Secretaries met. *Left to Right:* Mr. P. E. Tate (B.F.B.S. Bolivia); Rev. D. C. Brackenridge (Chile and Bolivia); Rev. J. H. Twentymen (B.F.B.S. Peru, Ecuador, Colombia); Rev. R. R. Gregory (A.B.S. Central America, Venezuela, Colombia); Rev. C. W. Turner (A.B.S. Brazil); Dr. North; Dr. Temple; C. H. Morris (B.F.B.S. Brazil); Rev. Paul Penzotti (A.B.S. Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay); H. T. Marroquín (A.B.S. Mexico); John Ritchie (A.B.S. Peru, Ecuador); Rev. J. G. Molina (A.B.S. West Indies)





## A Message from the Bible Society Secretaries in Latin America to the Christian Churches of the United States

THE Latin American Agency Secretaries of the American Bible Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society, meeting in conference in Rio de Janeiro in February 1946, desire to call the attention of the Christian churches to the present situation in Latin America with reference to the demand for the Holy Scriptures and the challenge which this presents to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ.

Throughout Latin America the years of the two world wars and the intervening period were marked by a great increase in the number of schools and of scholars in attendance at them; also, during these last years campaigns for literacy have been promoted in many of these republics, in some cases with remarkable success. There has therefore been a great increase in the percentage of readers in the rapidly growing population. There has also been a very notable extension in the mileage of roads for motor traffic, with the consequent ready access to places hitherto isolated; and to this have now been added widespread aviation services by which journeys are effected in a few hours which formerly required several days or weeks, thus bringing whole regions into a new and easy contact with the life of our time. Again, under the necessity to obtain manufactured articles which had always been imported but which were unobtainable during the years of war, industrialization has advanced by enormous strides, thus raising the standards of living and the amount of money passing through the hands of the people.

These and other factors in the life of the period have conspired together not only to increase the number of readers and put an end to isolation, but also to awaken the people to a new awareness of the problems of life, and a new spirit of inquiry which both stimulates reading and removes prejudices which formerly inhibited this healthy curiosity. Thus a new and ample opportunity has been provided for propaganda through the printed page, which is not being neglected by unchristian forces. In effect a new era has dawned in all Latin America, to which the many new and prosperous bookstores in all the cities bear eloquent testimony—an era of opportunity to reach the masses through books as never before, which presents an unprecedented challenge to the Christian church.

The direct bearing of these changes on Scripture circulation is apparent, but it is further evidenced by the fact that several Bible Society Agencies have been unable in recent years to meet the demand for the Scriptures.

A careful survey of the whole field by those who are in close contact with the situation in each republic indicates that for the next three years the Bible Society Agencies which serve Latin America will require 235,412 Bibles, 324,610 Testaments and 3,249,575 Scripture portions annually.

This situation has come about in the providence of God, when the growth of the Christian church in Latin America makes possible the most widespread and intelligent use of the Scriptures; but the conditions also make possible a mass movement away from all religion into a materialistic view of life. The Word of God is therefore the indispensable factor to turn the stream into courses of truth and righteousness beneficial to the individual, to society and to the Church of God.

In these circumstances we, the Bible Society representatives, feel constrained to issue this statement to the Christian churches, in the confidence that they will respond to the challenge by prayer and sacrifice to meet this situation in Latin America.

more than ten years each. Of six nationalities and several different denominations, and of a wide variety of missionary experience, they were—as Bible Society Secretaries usually are—of an eager and discerning mind and unitedly devoted in spirit to the effort to spread the Word of God among all the people.

Many of the matters they dealt with were necessarily technical, having to do with the improvement of many aspects of the work. The available types of Scriptures were reviewed, the most im-

portant listed for production, and suggestions were made as to improvements. Processes of distribution through colporteurs, missions and pastors were reviewed; literacy movements were appraised; religious liberty inquired into; methods of promoting support among the churches were offered and discussed.

Two measures of more than technical interest were taken. The Secretaries estimated the quantities of each book needed per year at present. The summary of these estimates showed an annual need



of 235,000 Bibles as compared with the issue of 161,000 in 1945, and of 324,000 Testaments as compared with 229,000 in 1945. The call for single Gospels, etc., was about the same as in 1945—3,250,000. This means that the Societies ought to increase the supply of Testaments to Latin America by 41 percent and of others by 46 percent. In this connection attention is directed to the statement by the Latin American Secretaries published on the previous page—a vivid portrayal of the opportunity.

A second measure was the recommendation for launching in Spanish and Portuguese a new quarterly—*La Biblia en America Latina*. The Spanish edition, which will circulate through all the countries except Brazil, will be edited by Secretary

J. Gonzalez Molina and published in Havana.

The Conference was also the occasion for the exploration by Secretaries Temple and North of the extension of the policy of joint work by the two Societies adopted in 1932 and in effect in Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia and Venezuela since 1936, and in Brazil since 1942. There seemed every good reason for the extension of the arrangement and, under approval of the Committees of the two Societies, the work in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia will be united in 1946, and that in Argentina and Paraguay in 1947. Then all the work in South America will be united under the title "Sociedades Biblicas Unidas," with more effective measures for supplying the needs of the people of this great "America Latina" with the Holy Scriptures.

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## The Rio Conference and Brazil

BY CHARLES W. TURNER

WE OF BRAZIL were especially glad that Rio de Janeiro was selected as the Conference city. The work of the Bible Societies has gone forward apace in Brazil during the last decade, and has become well integrated into the virile national Christian Church. The United Bible Societies, as representing the unified work of the British and Foreign Bible Society and the American Bible Society in Brazil, have served as an effective mode of transitional organization and operation from the status of the two separate foreign Societies under the establishment of the Brazil Bible Society as the definite plan for Bible Society organization in Brazil in the near future. This possibility, outlined by General Secretaries North and Temple in an important meeting with our Advisory Council, was received by the members with gratitude and joy, tempered both with a sense of deep responsibility and with an understanding of the indispensable need for closest cooperation with the parent Societies, so that the work in Brazil may continue to grow in root and branch.

Toward the end of this epoch-making Conference, on a quiet Sunday afternoon the new Bible House, a nine-floor fireproof building still in process of construction, was dedicated at a service whose predominant note was reverence and simplicity. There was present a group of about seventy Brazilian church leaders, English and American missionaries and Bible Society Secretaries, all gathered beneath the bare concrete

ceiling and among the ground-floor columns of the structure. The "Edificio da Biblia," the name by which the building is to be known, was solemnly dedicated in the name of Almighty God to the greater and wider distribution of the Holy Scriptures in Brazil, and as a witness to the permanent place the Bible must increasingly occupy in the life of the Brazilian nation. Dr. North's dedicatory statement and Dr. Temple's dedicatory prayer beautifully terminated an edifying service which will long be remembered by those who enjoyed the privilege of attending.

## A Water Carrier's Testimony

From Venezuela comes this close-up, one among many, that indicates how deep the roots of devotion to the Bible are striking in the hearts of the plain people among our Southern neighbors. A missionary quotes this testimony of an old Christian water carrier:

"When I get up in the morning, I am hungry and want to eat my breakfast; but I must read my Bible first, for I must have spiritual food as well as physical. They come asking for water. I say yes, by and by. But no—I must read my Bible first. At noon I am tired and hungry, but I must read my Bible first; for I eat three times a day, so I must read my Bible three times also. At night I sit down to read my Bible; I fall asleep, for I am tired. I must go to bed, but I can't until I read my Bible. Every day it is the same, but always I read my Bible. How can I be a Christian and tell others about the Lord Jesus if I don't?"



# Bibles, Not Bombs, for Japan

*Japan presents in 1946 what missionary statesmen agree is one of the greatest opportunities that ever confronted the Church*

BY ELIZABETH JAY HUSTED

THE accompanying pictures and the one on the front cover, furnished by the Signal Corps of the United States Army, reached New York just as this issue of the *Record* went to press. They were taken at the time of the arrival of the first shipment of the Society's Scriptures in Tokyo since V-J Day. Japan's interest in the Bible since her surrender has been as overwhelming as it was unexpected. The Japanese people, freed from any patriotic necessity of believing in the divinity of the emperor or adhering to Shinto as a national faith, have begun to ask what it is that makes the American, who occupies their land, the kind of man he is. The Japanese are reputed to be the most literate nation on earth. They believe in books and use them. Is there a Book which has made America? Yes, there is. This is, of course, a greatly oversimplified deduction, but it apparently is none the less a fairly true one; for how else can we understand the veritable deluge of requests for Scriptures in well-nigh astronomical figures that have come from the report of the commission of four American churchmen who visited Japan last fall; from leaders of the Church in Japan; from United States Army chaplains and from many others. There is an eagerness also to understand English on the part of the Japanese which brings the English Scriptures also into heavy demand. Through Chaplain Ivan L. Bennett of our forces in the Pacific the way was cleared with the military authorities for 100,000 Japanese Bibles, 2,500,000 Japanese New Testaments and 100,000 English New Testaments.

Chaplain Ivan L. Bennett wrote in March: "Enclosed herewith are five money orders totaling \$426.00.

"I think you and some of the other people in America will be interested to know that Chaplain M. A. Lanning, on duty here in Tokyo, mentioned the gift of Scriptures the Bible Society is making for the people of Japan in a Sunday morning service. He told the soldiers that those who might desire to have a part in this effort might leave their offerings in a plate at the entrance of the chapel. The contributions being in yen, and amounting to more than 6,000, made a full plate."

Happily some preparations had been made in advance. An edition of 10,000 large Japanese New Testaments and Psalms was published early in 1945. These books are suitable for use in public reading or by those whose eyesight is very poor.



*Photo by Signal Corps U. S. Army*

*Secretary Hirai of the Japan Bible Society is greeted by Chaplain Ivan L. Bennett, Chief of Chaplains, Pacific Theatre, as first large shipment of Bible Society Scriptures arrives in Tokyo*

In April 1945 an edition of smaller-sized New Testaments with 28 pages of selected Psalms was ordered from some of the paper supplied by the Offices of the Army and Navy Chaplains. These Testaments were bound in black cloth and, prov-



*Photo by Signal Corps U. S. Army*

*Chaplain Bennett distributes gift copies of New Testaments to students and teachers of Nippon University, Tokyo*



identially, were ready for immediate use at the end of the year when the request came for such huge quantities of Scriptures. The unprecedented demand could not be met, however, with cloth-bound books, so an attractive paper-covered



Photo by Signal Corps U.S. Army

Left to right: D. H. Tsumuraya, Professor of Sociology; Dr. Takeshi Haruki, Teacher of American Studies; Chaplain Bennett; Mrs. Herman Sacon; Mr. Russel L. Durgin

volume was devised and is now being produced as fast as funds and paper allow.

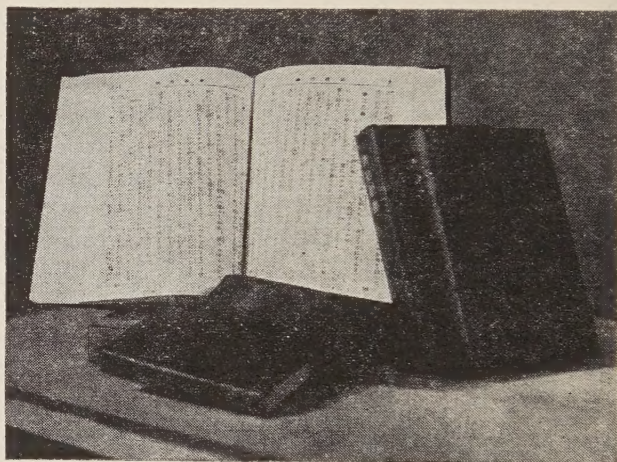
So greatly in excess of the anticipated demand was the call for Japan that the Society was forced to add \$600,000 to the total of its World Emergency Fund.

Just now the door to Japan is wide open to the Gospel. How long this will be no one knows.

## What Your Gift Will Do

	JAPANESE NEW TESTAMENTS	JAPANESE BIBLES	ENGLISH BIBLES
\$1,000 will provide	5,000	1,000	2,000
500 will provide	2,500	500	1,000
100 will provide	500	100	200
25 will provide	125	25	50
10 will provide	50	10	20

There must be no delay in supplying Scriptures to Japan this summer. The officers of the American Bible Society are confident that *Record* readers and their friends will respond generously and promptly to this need.



The new Japanese volumes in board covers

## Do the German Prisoners of War Want Bibles?

*The answer is given in quotations selected from acknowledgments by the prisoners themselves; and another question is asked: "Will America meet Germany's need for God's Word?"*

BY FRANCIS C. STIFLER

THE Society's Secretary in Geneva, Switzerland has experienced no let-up in his opportunities since the guns ceased firing. Rather to the contrary, with the channels of service open, the opportunities have increased. The need for Bibles is almost limitless. From the military area around Lyons and Montpellier the Red Cross reported to

Mr. Béguin that there were 100,000 prisoners without Bibles.

From the Geneva YMCA comes a report written by Delmar Wedel, a young American who spent ten days in a prison camp in Belgium in order to brush up his German and take part in the daily life of the POW. He writes:



In one section of the camp there were *three Bibles* for 1,800 men—an appalling condition, especially since among the men there exists a demand for spiritual guidance and instruction. Many thirst after the healing water of the Christian message. Here are words from one of the men in this section of the camp: “We look to the Christian nations for the Bibles and the religious literature that will enable us to find our return to God!”

From a lay preacher somewhere in France Mr. Béguin received this plea:

I have taken up my work again, which has grown considerably, owing to the enormous influx of prisoners of war. At the moment there are 15,000 men in this area. I have to visit 200 commands. *Unfortunately I have neither Bibles nor New Testaments at my disposal, so I am sending you an S.O.S.* in the hope that you can send me a consignment. I believe that you put me down for 500 to 1,000 New Testaments, hymn books, etc. If you could help me out just for the time being with one or two parcels I should be most grateful.

From the prisoners who so far have been fortunate enough to receive their copies come these acknowledgments, chosen from among many.

The first is from Walter Lotz, who is in a camp in Italy. He is one of the men to whom were distributed the 775 Bibles and 5,000 Testaments flown from Geneva to Italy last fall. (See the *Bible Society Record* for January 1946, page 13.) He writes:

A large number of clergymen and many thousands of German POW's thank you from the bottom of their hearts for the numerous Bibles, New Testaments and religious literature sent by you and the YMCA—Glory be to God!

All the other acknowledgments come from men in camps in France. In reading them we should remember that they have been translated by Mr. Béguin, a French-speaking Swiss, from the German into English.

Josef Radzuwelt writes:

The demand for Holy Scriptures is very great. There is a thirst for the Word of God. This period of trial has given many men fruit for thought. I am happy to be able to assure you that the Word of God has fallen here on fertile soil. We all want to learn from this appointed time of hardship to bow under the mighty hand of God.

Two letters are quoted from Hans Mucke. In the first he writes:

I hope you have received my card of thanks, sent off in the middle of the month, telling you of the safe arrival of a Bible. I have been a prisoner for three

months now, without news of my family in Vienna, as there are not postal communications. The Bible is a great consolation. Again, many thanks. Pray for us, as we do for all our Christian brothers.

Later he writes:

I can hardly describe with what joy I received from our camp padre the New Testament and Easter pamphlet. This way-leader to goal, which I had long forgotten, has rung again in my heart and will be earnestly followed. It means a lot to me, you can imagine. May the blessing of God remain with those who do the chaplaincy service for the prisoners of war.

Walter Lemoke writes:

I have taken over the duties of pastor in this camp, and should like to thank you heartily in the name of my comrades and myself for the great service you have rendered to us. There is a decided desire here for the Word of God. Divine service, which was conducted by a layman before I arrived, is very well attended; the Holy Scriptures are also frequently read.

Above all I am always asked for Bibles.

Hans Bender, a Catholic priest, writes:

May I ask you if you could also send to me some Holy Scriptures, a few good books to be read out loud during our youth evenings, and to lend to the sick. I am thankful for anything; I do not even possess my own New Testament. *For 1,200 men in the lazaret there are only twelve New Testaments available.*

Theodor Janicke writes:

You can hardly picture what your parcels mean in our camp life! Each Scripture travels through many hands, and the Bible is studied by many comrades.

Second in importance only to the supply of Scriptures which the Society is undertaking to send to Japan is that which is in preparation for Germany. There is room here only to tabulate the Society's recent service and contemplated program for Germany. Under the circumstances of occupation there seems no hope for many months that the production of Scriptures in Germany itself will amount to more than a handful. The process may be speeded a bit by printing in Switzerland to a limited extent. But the fact remains that no other place but America and no other people but the American people can adequately provide the Book which the German churches, the most hopeful constructive force in Germany, can use to the greatest advantage at this time. Let the figures recount the Society's recent service, its present program and its estimates for early additional supply to that nation in Europe which, above all others, needs the Bible:



	<i>Bibles</i>	<i>Testaments</i>	<i>Portions</i>	<i>Total</i>
Issued for German prisoners of war from July 1, 1944 . . . . .	43,040	505,377	1,168,844	1,717,261
Issued or in process of shipment for civilians, July 1, 1945 . . . . .	4,888	417,990	572,707	995,585
In process of production . . . . .	190,000	200,000		390,000
Being scheduled for production . . . . .	200,000	400,000	500,000	1,100,000
Total shipped or scheduled . . . . .	437,928	1,523,367	2,241,551	4,202,846
Estimates of further need . . . . .	450,000	1,250,000	500,000	2,200,000
Grand total . . . . .	887,928	2,773,367	2,741,551	6,402,846

In the long months of Germany's slow return to something like self-support, American Christians could do nothing that would contribute more directly and effectively toward the redemption of their onetime foe than to provide \$1,000,000 for German Scriptures.

## The Sea Parish

*A chaplain with peculiar privileges leaned heavily upon the Bible Society*

BY LEIGH WRIGHT

ONCE I dreamed of a church where all the members lived in paper houses next door. Then I went to sea, and found the life of a city represented in a one-minute walking distance. My parish was the same, but the membership of this parish was continually changing. In fact, in 43 months the congregation changed 43 times, and the total of these represented a constituent of populations that literally had lived around the world. Some were free men going to prepare for releasing those who had already been made captives. Some were captives that were being held as hostages until our governments decided what might be the policy of their final release.

While I had never gone to sea, I was a good sailor; and no matter how much we pitched or rolled I was able to carry the program of religious life and interest to all those who survived the tossing sea.

For all these months I had two ships, one was the sister ship of the *Gripsholm*, now called the *Ericsson*; the other was the *Queen Mary* of international fame. For a little more than three years I was the chaplain of the *Queen Mary*. By a fortunate assignment of space I had one of the centers of active service for my base and literature stand; and copies of the Scriptures were always available, with men on duty from 8:00 in the morning until 10:00 at night.

The barometer of interest was, that fully nine tenths of the time there were customers at my desk. Some asked questions, some sought counsel; and some claimed their copy of the Scriptures, to which they had been indifferent when on shore. The men invariably wanted their copies autographed to carry with them into battle or to take back home.

When the fighting ceased in Europe and men were returning to the States either as patients or to be released, they invariably wanted Bibles. At the bedside of every patient in our cabins there were Scripture portions and full Bibles for men of all faiths. At the end of the voyage I usually had a detail of men to pick up the Bibles, so that they would not be discarded by someone having enough; and I remember, once when I had used 300 men to search the cabins where better than 1,000 companies were quartered, I only found six Bibles that were not claimed by some of the soldiers. So great was the demand for Bibles by returning service men that I appealed directly to the American Bible Society to bring me more than I could, in time for sailing, secure in routine procedure at the port of embarkation. Frequently we were only in port for three days before we were turned about.

The final chapter of my experience came with the British brides coming to America. The auto-





*The Queen Mary Brings the Men Home*

graphing program grew to unprecedented proportions. As most of the brides were Protestants, they wanted a Bible for themselves and a copy of a Testament for their children.

Among countless personal contacts, enough to fill a book, I append two.

On my very first voyage a man came to me, very deeply concerned about his wife. He said to me, "She has a very weak heart, and I am concerned about her life. She is a good Christian and a member of the church back home." Then I said, "What about you?"—"Well," he said, "when I get home I want to confess Christ and become a member of the church." I said, "Why wait?" and after his willingness I explained in a brief way what it meant to be a Christian. If you give up something you receive a lot more; and in my cabin I baptized this man, took the name of his wife's minister and sent a letter asking the minister to place him on the roll along with his wife. As soon as I reached the States I sent her a letter; in fact, I called her by telephone and told her the good news. When I reached Africa again, he was there to meet me with a letter of commendation from the commanding officer for the services he had rendered.

As men were returning from service in the northern waters of lonely Iceland, one came to me one afternoon and said "I am afraid"; and I said "What do you fear?" He said, "I am afraid of what I know is in this ocean, and that perhaps

may get us and cripple us." I said, "Have you ever had any Christian experience?" He said, "Yes, but still I am afraid." With that I picked up a Bible and said, "Take this with you; tonight pick out the places you know; read them, then see me tomorrow." He took that Book, and true to its never-failing power it calmed his fears. The next day he was unruffled and smiling, and he said, "I am not afraid."

Men in danger know the value of the Bible. They know its power; they have understood its value and its comfort.

### **The Queen and Her Brides**

Following forty voyages with transports, there were three voyages with brides. No one knew what the brides

might want; no one knew what they might do. We had carried 1,600 women (but they were Army nurses and Wacs) before we ever dreamed of carrying brides with babies. But I remembered the wholesome religious interest which women have always displayed in church life.

When all were aboard, came Sunday, and services were the first order of the day. Over 400 attended the early service, and better than 60 took the overflow service an hour later, even though it was a time when they would be saying goodbye to England as we pulled out from the port.

I thought that 700 Bibles would be enough, and I held that number on board; but long before the end of the voyage I had run out of Bibles. The brides had stood in line and waited, to get a Bible; and, true to form, they wanted it autographed.

I did have an adequate number of Testaments for those who were sailing, and all faiths were furnished with those Scriptures.

In the morning I held a half-hour's service of devotion, and for the first day or so I held vespers in the late afternoon. Then I modified a plan to deliver lectures on "The Meaning of Marriage and the Foundation of the Family," giving a dozen definite phases of important associations to be maintained in marital life.

The Bible Society had responded in the next voyages with a thousand complete Bibles, so that I could furnish all the Bibles required. This was a priceless opportunity, for it showed the serious



intent of a large percentage of our new citizens; and it gave me the opportunity to show those who had been accustomed to a formal religion some of the less formal expressions that they would find in much of American church life. It was my privilege to consult them concerning their new religious experiences, necessarily so different from those they had known in their native land. I warned them that if the Church was to exist, they must be loyal to it; for no gifts would support it except their gifts, since American churches are not subsidized from outside sources.

## Newly Appointed

The Board of Managers on April 4 appointed the Rev. J. Gonzalez Molina Agency Secretary of the West Indies Agency. Mr. Molina has been in the service of the Agency for some fifteen years, having begun his work under the late Dr. Marcial Dorado and also served during the war period under Mr. James Innes. Mr. Molina brings to the work of the Agency the warm confidence not only of his colleagues, but also of the ministers of Cuba, where he is best known for his many gifts of administrative and literary skill. His contribution to the work of the Agency in the preceding years has been large. The years ahead are full of promise for the Agency.



Mr. Molina

At the same Board Meeting, Rev. John W. Osberg was appointed Secretary of the Eastern District. Mr. Osberg is a recently discharged army chaplain, an ordained minister of the Disciples of Christ fellowship. Before entering the army he served churches in Pennsylvania and Indiana. He studied at the State Teachers' College, Pennsylvania, is a graduate of National Bible Institute, New York City and holds his B.A. degree from Butler College, Indianapolis. Under the Government plan, he had two months of study at the Divinity School of Glasgow University in Scotland before his return to America this year. In his chaplaincy work abroad Mr.



Mr. Osberg

Osberg distributed many thousands of the Testaments supplied by the American Bible Society.

Mr. Osberg began his service with the Society April 15 and is already established with headquarters in Syracuse, New York.

## London Conference of Bible Societies

By the time this issue of the *Bible Society Record* is reaching its readers there will have been held in London, England a conference of the leading Bible Societies of the world, whose deliberations will be reported in a forthcoming issue. The following delegates of the American Bible Society, duly appointed by the Board at its April meeting, attended the conference: Secretary North and Mrs. North, Treasurer Darlington, Secretary Betts and Mrs. Betts, and Secretary Nida.

## In the Backwash of War

Chaplain Walter E. Williamson stood in the Bible Depot in San Francisco and said, "I sail for Japan with a full troopship of Japanese prisoners of war, repatriates and many aged folk, and I do not speak a word of Japanese." The Secretary suggested that God might speak for him through His Word. The chaplain left the Depot with a New Testament or a Portion in Japanese for every individual on his ship!

Similarly, another chaplain left the same port with a shipload of German prisoners of war for Europe by way of the Panama Canal. He sailed with a German Bible for every man.

Still another chaplain was supplied with 1,000 Testaments a week for distribution on hospital trains taking men from San Francisco to all sections of the country, and still another distributed them to men in a rehabilitation center with an average list of 1,400 American soldiers detained for minor military offenses. Many of them are ready to acknowledge their guilt and make a definite decision for the Christian life. To them the Bible, hitherto accounted as nothing, became a precious possession.

Shipyards and similar temporary concentrations of labor are proving an open door for the entrance of many Bibles. The Rev. Harold Henderson of Richmond, California writes, "Many of these defense workers, being here on a temporary basis, left all their belongings—including their Bibles—packed away back home. In our ministry, without creed or sect, the approach is always by way of the written Word . . . Hundreds of children have been delighted to own their first Bible . . . Children who have never heard the name of Jesus except in an oath have come to know Him and love Him as their Savior and Lord. . . . These defense workers responded to the campaign for 'Bibles, Not Bombs, for Tomorrow's World' with \$600."



# MEMBERS' FORUM

[Annual membership in the Society is secured through a gift of \$5 or more for the carrying on of its work. The Society also provides for Life Membership, Life Directorship and Memorial Membership. Particulars will be sent on request. The editors welcome correspondence from members and devote this page in each issue to that purpose]

## Send Mine to Japan

### From St. Louis, Mo.:

"Yesterday the *Bible Society Record* came to my desk and I have just now read it almost in its entirety. It has long been one of the publications to which I look forward most in the course of the month, and more than once it has exercised a profound influence on my life and thought.

"In this issue the article on Japan struck me with particular force, and I was ready to stop and take out my check book even before I reached the last lines. A few days ago I was told by the notary who made out my income tax return that the government would owe me thirty dollars. I am returning them to the Lord herewith, for I am sure that 'there is nothing I need more' than to help put the Scriptures into the hands of as many men and women as I can. As I have indicated on the check, I should like five dollars to go into the General Fund, to which I had been meaning to send a contribution. I am glad that the article on Japan's need galvanized me into action now.

"My earnest prayers will continue to rise to God that He may raise up a vast harvest of souls from our Japanese brethren as a result of this sowing of His Word, and that hindrances and shortages may be overcome by His help."

### From a Major in the Army of Occupation in Japan:

"Enclosed is a check for \$20 to be used to send Bibles to Japan. I have had the privilege of being acquainted with Japanese Christians in Kurume, Kyushu; and although their number is small, their faith is strong."

### From Washington, Indiana:

"I am sending \$10 to help buy Japanese Testaments. My son is where he helps unpack and hand out the Testaments; he says the natives are eager to learn of Christ. He is stationed on Okinawa."

### From Winnsboro, Texas:

"Please note the \$50 check to be used as you think best. At our next Deacon Meeting I am going to propose that the *Bible Society Record* be sent to all local members in our church, to be paid by our church.

"You, of course, know the American Bible Society is in our church budget."

### From Boone, Iowa:

"I was overseas in the Armed Forces for nearly two years and returned to the U.S.A. last August. I have read with great interest and thankfulness the article 'Japan Has Seen A Great Light' in the March number of the *Bible Society Record*. I would like to help some in your program to send Bibles to Japan, so am enclosing five dollars for you to use for that purpose."

### From Pasadena, California:

"The enclosed is too small a check to call a contribution, but please accept it as a token of my appreciation of the *Record*.

"I am a retired missionary of the Southern Presbyterian Church, having spent 43 years in Japan, during which time I sold hundreds of New Testaments and many more Gospel portions.

"My eldest son is now in Tokyo on official duty. In a letter written January 1st, he told of his Christmas:

"Our Christmas was great! About a week before Christmas a Navy captain said, 'Well, Percy, what about Christmas?' I asked him for his ideas; he had lots. Almost every one in our Intelligence Unit saved up cookies and candy till we had five big boxes full. I gathered a chorus of about thirty voices (eight Nisei, Protestants, Catholics and two Jews) to sing carols. We bought five large Christmas trees; then for the celebration we piled everything into jeeps and trucks and started out to visit as many churches and Sunday schools as possible, giving the same program at each place, just fifteen minutes; a good many officers and men joined the celebrating party.

"The first stop was a Catholic Sunday school in the slums; then a Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian and Congregational, as many as they could visit. I don't know who had the better time, the children or we. Certainly many of the Army and Navy personnel felt the power of Christ that day. One hardened Lieut. Commander said later, 'Percy, I got more honest-to-God Christianity today than ever before in my life.' (His tone and manner showed that he meant no profanity.)

"Another Colonel, who had had a rather bitter experience in Manila, when invited to join the party, agreed to go to one, the first stop only; this he did, but sat as far back as possible, looking rather glum; however, he came to the second and sat farther forward; and to the next and next and next, moving farther forward each time, till at last he was right up in front, singing with the chorus, his face transformed, and smiling at the bright-eyed, hungry children. Full of good will, he now patted the children on the head and said, 'Merry Christmas!' Christmas and the children had won him over. It's true, isn't it, the meaning of Christmas: Peace on earth; good will among men!"

### From Los Angeles, California:

"It seems there never was a time when Bibles were so needed as the present, especially in Japan.

"My soldier boy just returned from there, and he thinks Japan is like a big lump of clay in a potter's hands, and that the people of the United States can make of her almost what they will, if 'they get the vision.' So I pray we can make her a Christian nation."



# EDITORIAL COMMENT

## Bible Society Record

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures*

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to the  
Managing Editor

FRANCIS CARR STIFLER  
450 Park Avenue  
New York 22, N. Y.



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### Daily Bible Readings

#### JUNE

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	Galatians	1,2	16	I Timothy	5,6
2	Galatians	3,4	17	II Timothy	1,2
3	Galatians	5,6	18	II Timothy	3,4
4	Ephesians	1,2	19	Titus	1,2,3
5	Ephesians	3,4	20	Philemon & Jude	
6	Ephesians	5,6	21	Hebrews	1,2
7	Philippians	1,2	22	Hebrews	3,4
8	Philippians	3,4	23	Hebrews	5,6
9	Colossians	1,2	24	Hebrews	7
10	Colossians	3,4	25	Hebrews	8:1-9:10
11	I Thessalonians	1,2,3	26	Hebrews	9:11-10:25
12	I Thessalonians	4,5	27	Hebrews	10:26-11:16
13	II Thess.	1,2,3	28	Hebrews	11:17-12:6
14	I Timothy	1,2	29	Hebrews	12:7-29
15	I Timothy	3,4	30	Hebrews	13

#### JULY

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	Ruth	1,2	17	Proverbs	12:14-28;
2	Ruth	3,4			13
3	Ester	1	18	Proverbs	14:1-15:10
4	Ester	2	19	Proverbs	15:11-16:18
5	Ester	3:1-4:3	20	Proverbs	16:19-17:28
6	Ester	4:4-17:5	21	Proverbs	18:1-19:16
7	Ester	6,7	22	Proverbs	19:17-20:30
8	Ester	8	23	Proverbs	21:1-22:12
9	Ester	9:1-19	24	Proverbs	22:13-23:25
10	Ester	9:20-10:3	25	Proverbs	23:26-24:34
11	Proverbs	1:1-9;	26	Proverbs	25:1-26:12
		20:33;2	27	Proverbs	26:13-27:27
12	Proverbs	3,4	28	Proverbs	28
13	Proverbs	5,6	29	Proverbs	29
14	Proverbs	7,8	30	Proverbs	30
15	Proverbs	9,10	31	Proverbs	31
16	Proverbs	11:1-12:13			

### Gems For Thought

Every Friday, through September 23, Secretary Stifler will be heard twice daily over the facilities of the American Broadcasting Company from coast to coast on his annual series entitled this year "Gems for Thought About the Bible." The morning series is given at 8:55 EST and the evening series by transcription at 11:30 EST. If, after

making due adjustment for your time zone, you cannot get the program, consult your local ABC station, as the transcribed programs in some cases are broadcast at varying hours.

A leaflet describing the series will be supplied in reasonable quantities to pastors and others who can use them. Address the American Bible Society, Radio Department, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, New York.

\* \*

### "Marching Orders for a New Day"

This is the title of a book with the subtitle "Treasures from the Bible." It contains over 70 passages, selected as the most challenging for times like these by a poll taken among the men and women of our Armed Forces for the Worldwide Bible Reading sponsored by the American Bible Society. All the selections that ran high in the voting are included in this book, which contains many of the Bible's greatest passages. No one can come from the daily reading of these passages without a renewed sense of the majesty, the vitality and the authority of the Bible.

This priceless little volume is available through the Society at \$1.00. Order from Department VM.

### March Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and thirtieth year was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y., on Thursday, March 7, 1946, President Daniel Burke, LL.D., in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Edward H. Hume, M.D.

Mr. Edmund S. Hawley, Mr. Reginald S. Wareham, Mr. Carl E. Holmes and Mrs. Harry W. Rosengrant were elected Managers.

The following consignments to Foreign Agencies was reported:

	Volumes	Value
November		
Latin America	81,577	\$10,863.78
December		
Latin America	269,163	\$21,903.56
Far East	1,085	240.48
	270,249	\$22,144.04
January		
Latin America	132,157	\$15,624.95
Near East	5	9.90
Far East	100	43.58
	132,262	\$15,678.43

The issues from the Bible House for November, 1945 were 602,629 volumes; for December, 1945, 1,574,725 volumes; and for January, 1946, 793,297 volumes.

The meeting was adjourned.

### April Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and thirtieth year was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N.Y., on Thursday, April 4, 1946, at 3:30 p.m., President Daniel Burke, LL.D., in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by General Secretary Robert T. Taylor.

Mr. Carl E. Holmes, Mr. Edmund S. Hawley, and Mr. Reginald S. Wareham, being present for the first time, were introduced to the Board.

Page proof of the Managers' Report on the One Hundred and Thirtieth Year of the Society was distributed. The Report was approved and the officers authorized to proceed with its printing.

Rev. John W. Osberg was appointed Secretary of the Eastern District.

Dr. H. C. Rutgers, Secretary of the Netherlands Bible Society, was present and brought cordial greetings from his Society, expressing deep appreciation and thanks for the continued aid of the American Bible Society, especially during the war years.

General Secretary North, reporting briefly on his recent trip to South America, expressed gratification over the many evidences of united action and fellowship of all the Agencies at work there and called attention to the many opportunities for service, the great increase in transportation, the growth in literacy, and of increasing calls for the Scriptures throughout all of the countries which were visited.

Rev. J. Gonzalez Molina was appointed Secretary of the West Indies Agency.

Mr. John B. Macbeth was appointed Assistant Treasurer of the Society.

A letter from Dr. J. Chapman Bradley submitting his resignation as Secretary for the Promotion of Bible Use as of March 13 was presented and the resignation accepted.

The meeting was adjourned.



# Officers, Managers and Agencies of the American Bible Society

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Rev. Harvey Clark, 35 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago 1, Ill.  
*Southwestern*—Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana  
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Rev. Richard West, 650 Seventeenth Street, Denver 2, Colo.  
*Pacific*—California, Washington, Ore., Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii  
Rev. R. W. Bayless, D.D., 224 McAllister St., San Francisco 2, Calif.

### Divisions of the Haven Memorial Agency among the Colored People of the United States

*Atlanta*—Georgia, So. Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tenn.  
Rev. D. H. Stanton, D.D., 56 Gammon Ave., S. E., Atlanta, Ga.  
*Richmond*—No. Carolina, Virginia, W. Va., D. C., Maryland  
St. Luke Bldg., 902 St. James St., Richmond 20, Va.

*Cleveland*—Ohio, Pa., N. Y., N. J., Del., Mich., Ind., Ill., Mo., Ky.  
Rev. V. C. Hodges, D.D., 5424 Woodland Ave., Cleveland 4, Ohio  
*Dallas*—Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas

### Field Secretaries

Mr. Alfred G. Blair, 325 Ramona Street, Pasadena 4, Calif.  
Mr. D. M. Howell, 1506 Arrott Bldg., Pittsburgh 22, Pa.  
Rev. Edwin H. Bookmyer, 77 No. Ardmore Ave., Lansdowne, Pa.  
Rev. Thomas T. Holloway, 1914 Main Street, Dallas 1, Texas

Rev. Wm. W. Speer, The Arcade, 401 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio  
Rev. Wellington Logan, 1612 Kales Bldg., Detroit, Mich.  
Rev. Edgar Brown, 809 First National Bank Bldg., Houston, Texas

### Depositories—To Which Orders for Scriptures Should Be Sent

*New York City 22*—Bible House, 450 Park Avenue  
*Atlanta 3, Georgia*—85 Walton St.  
*Chicago 1, Illinois*—35 E. Wacker Drive  
*Dallas 1, Texas*—1914 Main St.  
*San Francisco 2, California*—224 McAllister St.

## Foreign Agencies

*West Indies*—Rev. J. Gonzales Molina, Neptuneo 629, Havana, Cuba  
*Mexico*—Sr. H. T. Marroquín, Apartado 1373, Mexico City  
*Caribbean*—Rev. Raymond R. Gregory, Bible House, Box J, Cristobal, Canal Zone  
*Upper Andes*—Mr. John Ritchie, Apartado 448, Girón Camaná 836, Lima, Peru  
*Chile-Bolivia*—Mr. D. C. Brackenridge, Casilla 784, Santiago, Chile

*La Plata*—Rev. P. Penzotti, Calle Paraná 471, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
*Brazil*—Rev. Charles W. Turner, Ph.D., Caixa 454, Rio de Janeiro  
*Bible Lands Agency, North*—Mr. F. Lyman MacCallum, Box 747, Beirut, Syria or Bible House, Istanbul, Turkey  
*Bible Lands Agency, South*—Mr. H. Athanassian, P. O. Box 724, 62 Sharia Ibrahim Pasha, Cairo, Egypt

*Philippines*—Rev. W. H. Fonger, 592 Isabel St. Sampoloc, Manila  
*Thailand (Siam)*—Rev. Robert O. Franklin (on furlough) 703 Sathorn Rd., Bangkok  
*China*—Rev. Ralph Mortensen, Ph.D., Bible House, 58 Hongkong Rd., Shanghai, China  
*Japan Bible Society*—Mr. K. Hirai, General Secretary, Bible House, 2 Shichome, Ginza, Tokyo

### State Bible Societies Cooperating with the American Bible Society

*Maine*—Rev. Hammond I. Peterson, 19 Pine St., Portland 4  
*New Hampshire*—Edward A. Dame, 24 Warren St., Concord  
*Vermont*—Rev. Stanley B. Hyde, 189 South Winooski Ave., Burlington  
*Massachusetts*—Rev. F. K. Singiser, D.D., 41 Bromfield St., Boston 8

*Connecticut*—W. Marlin Butts, 278 Farmington Ave., Hartford 5  
*Rhode Island*—Rev. Selden R. McCurdy, D.D., 144 Westminster St., Providence 3  
*Maryland*—Rev. E. C. Powers, D.D., 9 E. Franklin St., Baltimore 2



# To Promote the use of THE BIBLE



**R**ECENTLY, by special action of the Board of Managers, a fourth function was added to the Society's historic three—translation, publication and distribution: *the encouragement of the use of the Bible.*

The major item in that program is the Worldwide Bible Reading from Thanksgiving to Christmas, which has been so successful the past two years.

At least 22 million pieces of printed material were distributed last year in connection with the Worldwide Bible Reading, more than 18 million of which were bookmarks listing the passages chosen.

Plans for 1946 are to enlarge its effectiveness

in every possible way, but to do this funds are needed.

The anticipated expenses in connection with the Worldwide Bible Reading amount to \$54,000, but in order to balance the Society's 1946 budget \$25,000 must be secured in gifts designated for this particular purpose.

In addition \$3,000 more is required for the publishing of helpful leaflets encouraging Bible use, requests for which are mounting in number.

Friends of the Bible will welcome this new emphasis upon getting the Scriptures read and will want to contribute toward making this new aspect of the Society's service one of far-reaching effect.

**Please mail this coupon today!**

**AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY**

Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.

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